Import of Wheat

†4. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year wise amount spenton import of wheat during last three years;

(b) whether this import had been made because availability of wheat was less than the requirement; if not, the reasons for such import;

(c) the year-wise quantity of wheat imported, in tonnes, during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for both import & export simultaneously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (c) Year-wise details of wheat imported on Govt, account during the last three years are as under:—

Qty. in lakh tonnes

Value (foreign exchange) in million dollars

Year	Qty.	Foreign Exchange spent
1996-97	17.51	281.92
1997-98	10.18	163.46
1998-99	14.15	205.18

(b) Wheat is also allowed to be imported by Roller Flour Mills for milling purposes. Figures of such import on trade account are not available. Imports on Government account are determined by Govt, over all assesment of the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for PDS/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc.

(d) These has been no commercial export of wheat from the Central pool on Govt, account during this period.

Export of Meat

t5. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.